

I am Damary Quiros, resident of Newington, Ct. I am a Senior Home Visitor with the VNA Healthcare, Nurturing Families Network program and have been for the past 14 years. I've had the privilege of seeing the state have a vision for the voiceless children; I saw the state search and implement a child abuse preventive program. I later witness the programs growth and expansion throughout Connecticut because of its success. We as a state collaboratively were able to have a system in place that gave this vulnerable generation protection, hope, value, services and most importantly a voice.

In order to stop child abuse before it begins, best practice is to have a prevention program, because it does save CT money. Avoiding disaster before it happens.

We have reached a point in the state of Connecticut where a price tag is being placed on families; specifically the poor and disenfranchised with minimal resources. CT needs to save money. We are aware of this, but at what cost? At the risk of the same population with limited support? Is Connecticut causing a bigger dilemma? I believe you are.

By reducing Nurturing Families to hospital base sites we will be leaving many families without services. The VNA Healthcare whom I work for is affiliated with Hartford Hospital. Some will be left without services due to limited Labor force. How will we handle providing services for all of the existing families and all of the new families with limited resources? How will DCF handle the increase of referrals due to parents not bringing their babies for follow up medical care, inappropriate parenting skills; or not appropriately bonding with their infants? I have not mentioned parents of children with special needs. Many of these parents need referrals for anger management and need to be supported to cope with the loss of not having a normal child. Some experience and feel the need to take out out their burdens on

their children. Many services have been put in place for these vulnerable families for good reasons to support and ensure the safety of your young constituents.

Nurturing Families has many success stories. We have parents that have completed high school, entered college, joined the workforce and entered nursing programs.

There are children in need right now that are in the process of getting their services. How do we stop services? How does Connecticut tell a family in need "Your services, your lifeline, your one support, has been terminated due to funding?" Families in need don't understand that. How can you justify that removing or reducing services to your young constituents saves money for CT? What is your formula?